

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/683,426

Applicant(s)

BROOKNER

Examiner

Richard Woo

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendemnt filed on 03-01-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 15.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Oppedahl (Reg. No. 32,746) on March 17, 2004.

2) The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 10, 20 and 30-31 have been amended as follows:

In Claim 1, line 5, --by electronic computation-- has been inserted after "first information".

10. (Amended) A method for use with purchased postal indicia, with mail pieces and with a purchaser having an identity, the method comprising the steps of:

requiring, as a precondition of receiving at least one addressed mail piece with a postal indicium into the mail, that the postal indicium bear second information derived by electronic computation from first information indicative of the identity of the purchaser;

receiving the at least one addressed mail piece with the postal indicium into the mail; and

delivering the at least one addressed mail piece.

20. (Amended) A method for use with purchased postal indicium, with mail pieces and with a purchaser having an identity, the method comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 3629

requiring, as a precondition of delivering at least one addressed mail piece with a postal indicium into the mail, that the postal indicium bear second information derived by electronic computation from first information indicative of the identity of the purchaser;

receiving the at least one addressed mail piece with the postal indicium into the mail; and

delivering the at least one addressed mail piece.

30. (Amended) A method for use with mail pieces and with a recipient possessing a list of expected senders, and with a sender having an identity, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a delivered mail piece bearing a postal indicium, the postal indicium bearing second information derived by electronic computation from first information indicative of the identity of the sender;

reading the second information derived by electronic computation from the first information indicative of the identity of the sender; and

determining whether the sender whose identity is indicated by the second information derived by electronic computation from the first information is on the list of expected senders.

In Claim 31, line 1, --second information derived by electronic computation from first -- has been inserted before "information".

The above changes to the claims have been made for clarity purposes so as to place the instant application in condition for allowance.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is deemed to be directed to an unobvious improvement over Ruat (WO 95/20200).

W.R.T. Claim 1:

Ruat discloses a system for processing of mailing envelopes, which includes computer means for the entering, encryption and coding of information relating to the sender and to the recipient of an envelope as well as to its postage, and for printing, on the envelope or on a label, coded information items.

However, Ruat does not disclose the method comprising the steps of:

requiring, as a precondition of purchasing at least one postal indicium, receipt of first information indicative of the purchaser's identity; and

deriving second information functionally from the first information by electronic computation.

W.R.T. Claim 10:

Ruat discloses a system for processing of mailing envelopes, which includes computer means for the entering, encryption and coding of information relating to the sender and to the recipient of an envelope as well as to its postage, and for printing, on the envelope or on a label, coded information items.

However, Ruat does not disclose the method comprising the steps of:

requiring, as a precondition of receiving at least one addressed mail piece with a postal indicium into the mail, that the postal indicium bear second information derived by electronic computation from the first information indicative of the identity of the purchaser.

W.R.T. Claim 20:

Ruat discloses a system for processing of mailing envelopes, which includes computer means for the entering, encryption and coding of information relating to the sender and to the recipient of an envelope as well as to its postage, and for printing, on the envelope or on a label, coded information items.

However, Ruat does not disclose the method comprising the step of:

requiring, as a precondition of delivering at least one addressed mail piece with a postal indicium, that the postal indicium bear second information derived by electronic computation from the first information indicative of the identity of the purchaser.

W.R.T. Claim 30:

Ruat discloses a system for processing of mailing envelopes, which includes computer means for the entering, encryption and coding of information relating to the sender and to the recipient of an envelope as well as to its postage, and for printing, on the envelope or on a label, coded information items.

However, Ruat does not disclose the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a delivered mail piece bearing a postal indicium, the postal indicium bearing second information derived by electronic computation from the first information indicative of the identity of the purchaser;

reading the second information and determining whether the sender whose identity is indicated by the second information is on the list of expected senders.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4) The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

"Stamps.com: Technology Helps Improve Mail Security" is cited to show the service that provides extensive information regarding the sender's identity, point of origination and the path taken through the mail system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

Art Unit: 3629

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



Richard Woo
Patent Examiner
GAU 3629
March 19, 2004

JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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